FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 MARCH 1987

Tunisia's Decision To Break Relations With Iran

A government communique broadcast by Tunis radio 26 March announced Tunisia's decision to sever relations with Iran because of the latter's "flagrant violation" of diplomatic norms by using its embassy in Tunis as a center that "commits acts detrimental to public security." Investigations have shown that the embassy's "dubious activities" included attempts to establish "organized relations" with Tunisian "sectarians and extremists" and to use "propaganda and financial inducements" to lure "abnormal citizens" into carrying out activities aimed at creating ideological confusion, chaos, and sedition inside Tunisia. The communique also accused the Iranians of seeking to undermine the good relations between Tunisia and other friendly countries, adding that Iranian activities in this regard include delegating some "won-over elements" in the Tunisian community abroad to carry out acts contrary to international law.

The Tunisian government announcement followed the recent arrest of Tunisian terrorist suspects in Djibouti and Paris, as well as a visit to Baghdad by Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk. The six Tunisians arrested in the French capital 21 March were among a group of eight people described by Paris radio as "very big fish." The group may be linked with terrorist attacks in Paris over the last year, the radio noted, and it includes a French national of Lebanese origin who is one of the founders of Hizballah. As for Mabrouk's visit to Baghdad, INA noted that the Tunisian minister expressed his country's solidarity with Iraq during a 25 March meeting with President Saddam Husayn. The Iraqi foreign minister subsequently welcomed Tunisia's "daring" decision to break relations with Iran, according to INA.

However, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Tehran radio viewed Tunisia's allegations as "false and baseless," adding that Tunisia failed to offer any evidence or proof to substantiate its charges against the Iranian Embassy. The real reason why Tunisia broke relations was because it is fearful of the growth of the Islamic movement, the spokesman contended.

Mitterrand in Algeria, Comment on Chad

Francois Mitterrand discussed bilateral and international issues with President Chadli Bendjedid in Algiers 26 March, Algiers radio reported, noting the French president's statement that his visit was "short but successful." In remarks broadcast by Paris radio after the talks, Mitterrand confirmed that both France and Algeria are taking an active part in working for reconciliation between Chadian leaders Hissein Habre and Goukouni Oueddei, and he said that Libyan protests about events in Chad are of "little significance." On the military situation in Chad, the radio disclosed that Chadian forces have surrounded Faya-Largeau but a sandstorm has prevented their assault on the town

Libya

Suggestions by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for an improvement in Libya's economic performance included a call for a return to private enterprise in small-scale service industries. Addressing people's committee officials in a speech broadcast by Tripoli television, the Libyan leader said that any private enterprise has an element of exploitation, "but when it becomes a necessary service, we accept this exploitation." He said that people should be allowed to own cafes, restaurants, hotels, and other services provided they do not employ others. Private shops could also be established as long as they are not owned by people who engaged in trade in the past. Al-Qadhdhafi acknowledged that the present system of trade has produced a "bad and serious" situation in which people queue for food, pay high prices, and can find little to buy with their money.

Col al-Qadhdhafi also called for changes in other sectors of the economy to improve efficiency and productivity. Farming families should be allowed to establish mutual partnerships in order to boost production, he said, and light industries should be taken out of state ownership and owned by their workers. Light industries are in a state of decline and paralysis, their production is poor, and their workers are careless and apathetic, he asserted. He added that heavy industries should remain state-owned as they are generally operating well. Stressing that his proposals are based on the Green Book principle that people should be partners but not wage earners, Al-Qadhdhafi attributed some of the present problems to "certain exaggerated applications" of the Green Book and he noted that the Book did not say that participation must be with the state.

Israeli Policy on USSR

Israeli policy on seeking normal relations with the Soviet Union should not be linked with the problem of Jewish emigration from the USSR, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio. He told visiting U.S. Jews that the two issues are separate and mixing them up could make the Soviet Jews "hostages" to Israel's policy in the Middle East. Shamir's statement was a "major change" in policy as Israel has previously insisted on linking the two issues, the radio noted.

Lebanon

Plight of U.S. Hostage — Alann Steen is dying from hemiparesis and other afflictions, fellow hostage Jesse Turner warned in a video message sent by the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP) to a Beirut newspaper. Turner's message, which was reported by AFP, urged the United States and Israel to ask the IJLP to send the list of Arab prisoners it wants released from Israeli jails.

Security — Palestinian sources cited by Voice of Lebanon radio stated that six people were killed when Amal Movement gunmen

fired at Palestinian women near Burj al-Barajinah. Beirut radio reported a spate of explosions in West Beirut following the execution by Syrian forces of three people who had attacked a Syrian position.

DRA-Pakistan

DRA planes launched another raid inside Pakistan 26 March, killing five Afghan refugees and wounding eight in the Teri Mangal area, Karachi radio reported. A Pakistani official cited by the radio said his country intends to acquire an early warning system so that Pakistan can take defensive action against intruding aircraft.

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'Authorities' Deny Alleged Raids on Pakistan
LD261751 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Excerpts] The charge d'affairs at the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry at midday today and the following points were made to him by the director of the First Political Department:

Despite repeated protests by the DRA Government, violations by the Armed Forces of Pakistan against DRA territory have been continuing. For example on 16 March [words indistinct] Khas Konar; from 10-16 March [words indistinct] which resulted in the loss of life and material and the destruction of a number of residences.

The DRA Government lodges a strong protest with the Government of Pakistan over these attacks by the Armed Forces of Pakistan, and demands that the relevant authorities of this country end such actions or a heavy responsibility will rest on the Pakistani authorities.

Moreover, the Pakistani authorities, in continuation of their unfounded fabrications, have claimed that on 23 March the DRA Air Force allegedly (?raided) the regions of southern Waziristan and Khyber Agency, on 20 March DRA land forces violated the Torkham region, and on 18 March the Arandu region.

After investigations, the relevant DRA authorities view these claims as unfounded lies, (?resolutely) reject them, and ask the Government of Pakistan to end such unfounded accusations that only serve to exacerbate the situation on the border between the two countries.

Wakil Message to UN Head on Return of Afghans
LD262249 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Comrade 'Abdol Wakil, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and DRA minister of foreign affairs, sent the following message to New York, addressed to His Excellency Perez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary General:

Your Excellency, in my letter dated 2 February 1987, in which we asked (?you to create) facilities in Pakistan and Iran for the return of Afghans living there; I want to draw your attention to the following points:

All information reaching us from various sources indicates that not only do the artificial obstacles created by the authorities of these two countries together with the leaders of the armed opposition groups remain, but also extra measures have been taken to (?intimidate) those who intend to return. [passage indistinct]

Instead of replying positively and offering charter flights to bring refugees back, they [Pakistan and Iran] emphasized their previous stubborn and unfounded stand and irresponsibly regarded our serious and earnest proposal as propaganda. Long lists correctly identifying Afghans residing in Pakistan and Iran who wish to return to their country as soon as possible have been prepared and put at the disposal of the DRA political and consulate agencies in the above (?countries).

Obviously our plans at the level of bilateral relations [words indistinct] have brought no positive change in the attitude of Pakistani and Iranian Governments. [passage indistinct]

In consideration of the seriousness of this issue and its noticeable effect on the situation around Afghanistan in general, we request your excellency, through this letter, to assess the present situation [words indistinct] in view of your humanitarian mission, and to take specific measures for the return of refugees to their country.

(?We are confident) that you will spare no effort in arranging facilities for the immediate return of the Afghan refugees to their homeland. Please accept our warm sentiments.

[Signed] DRA Foreign Affairs Minister 'Abdol Wakil

Sri Lanka Urged To Cease Military Operations

BK261608 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] India has urged Sri Lanka to hold its military operations against the Tamil militants so that the revised process of discussions started by Mr Dinesh Singh during his recent visit to Colombo is not jeopardized. Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, reports that this is one of the main points of a verbal message from the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to President Jayewardene. The message was conveyed by the Indian high commissioner, Mr J.N. Dixit, when he called on the Sri Lankan president in Colombo this afternoon. Mr Jayewardene was told that India is actively engaged in trying for the resumption of talks between the Sri Lanka Government and the Tamil groups. He was informed that two union ministers — Mr Chidambaram and Mr Natwar Singh — are continuing their discussions in Madras today with the representatives of Sri Lanka Tamils to assess their reaction to the peace proposals.

The prime minister himself will hold discussions with the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, on the Sri Lanka issue in Madras tomorrow. Mr Rajiv Gandhi also expressed the hope that Sri Lanka's government will cooperate in the process of discussions and concentrate on a peaceful political solution to the ethnic problem.

Sri Lankan Soldiers Said Trained in Pakistan

BK261420 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Pakistan has confirmed that Sri Lankan Armed Forces personnel are being trained in this country. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that personnel from other countries are also being trained, but did not give any specifics.

The spokesman was answering questions regarding steps taken by Pakistan to enhance its air defense capability. He said his country would examine all options for the early aquisition of AWACS. He did not rule out the possibility of the stationing of AWACS manned by U.S. Air Force personnel.

AFP: Japanese Embassy, Businesses on Alert

BK270440 Hong Kong AFP in English 0427 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] New Delhi, March 27 (AFP) -- The Japanese Embassy has alerted all Japanese offices in India against possible attacks by Red Army guerrillas and tightened its own precautions, an embassy spokesman said here Friday.

This was done on instructions from the Japanese Government after a Tokyo court rejected mercy petitions from "terrorists" sentenced to death, he said.

All Japanese offices in India, including banks and private corporations, have been asked to tighten security measures and guard against possible Red Army attacks, the spokesman told *Agence France- Presse*.

An attempt was made on the life of a senior executive of a Japanese bank in Lima, Peru, on Monday. The official escaped.

AFP Details 1987-88 Oil Import Plans

BK260934 Hong Kong AFP in English 0915 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] New Delhi, March 26 (AFP) — India is to import 22.24 million tons of crude oil and petroleum products in the 1987-88 financial year which begins next week, Petroleum Ministry officials said here Thursday.

The import requirement, some three million tons more than the previous year, would be met through Soviet credits and spot-buying on the international market, officials said.

India spent 2.44 billion dollars on oil imports amounting to 19.5 million tons of crude oil and petroleum products in 1986-87.

Domestic crude production during the current year is expected to be 27.37 million tons. The ministry has not yet announced the target for 1987-88 as an undisclosed number of onshore and offshore wells have tapered off in the past year, officials said. Most of India's crude comes from offshore fields.

Oil explorers earlier this month claimed India's biggest onshore oilfield-find in western Gujarat with an annual potential of 3.5 million tons of crude oil and gas from reserves estimated at 440 million tons. With that discovery more than 40 oil and gas wells are planned in Gandhar in Gujarat, and India expects to meet about 70 percent of its domestic crude requirements, whereas it imported 70 percent in 1981.

Identity Cards for Pakistani Border Area Residents

BK260340 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] The Gujarat government has decided to issue identity cards to citizens in Kutch District residing within 50 km of the Indian territory from the international boundary with Pakistan. The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting in Gandhinagar. The identity cards will come into force from 1st of June this year.

Kabul 26 Mar Raid Kills 5 Afghan Refugees
BK270240 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] The Kabul regime's aircraft attacked Kotri near Teri Mangal yesterday [26 March], killing five and injuring eight Afghan refugees. Local officials told a team of Pakistani and foreign journalists that 12 Afghan planes violated Pakistani airspace at 1125 [0625 GMT], and 4 of the planes intruded up to 2 km inside Pakistani territory and fired 6 rockets at and dropped 3 bombs on Afghan refugee camps.

Steps Taken To Increase Border Surveillance
BK261611 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Pakistan has taken the necessary steps to increase surveillance at its borders and is acquiring an early warning system to eliminate airspace violations by the Kabul regime's aircraft and bombing of its territory. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the Kabul regime's air attacks on Monday [23 March] on Angur Adda in South Waziristan and on Teri Mangal village, in which 147 persons were killed and 205 others injured, were caused by the unfortunate fact that at present Pakistan does not have a system to detect intruding aircraft as soon as they enter Pakistani airspace so that defensive action can be taken. The spokesman said that recent attacks by the Kabul regime's aircraft are irresponsible provocations by the Kabul puppet administration, in light of which it has become necessary to take measures to protect the lives and property of Pakistani citizens. It is a matter of great significance for Pakistan to make an immediate decision on acquiring an early warning system to end these aggressive acts. He added that the government is considering many alternative possibilities that must be viewed very carefully to determine which early warning system should be acquired. The cost of such a system will be $500 million to $1 billion depending on the kind.

The spokesman said a strong protest has been lodged with the Afghan charge d'affaires. Pakistan's permanent representative at the United Nations has also been asked to inform the secretary general of this incident, and friendly countries have been briefed on these attacks. The spokesman said that these attacks by the Kabul regime expose its false propaganda of desiring an immediate settlement of the Afghan issue.

The spokesman said that the U.S. Administration has briefed Pakistan on details of the recent talks between the U.S. assistant secretary of state, Mr Armacost, and Soviet officials in Moscow. The spokesman added that the talks covered the Afghan issue and all aspects of its political settlement. The spokesman said that Pakistan holds regular consultations with its friends and also exchanges information and analyses with other countries in connection with negotiations on a political settlement of the Afghan issue.

On the Indian military exercises, the spokesman said that India has told Pakistan that its military exercises will be concluded by the 25th of next month.

Answering a question, the spokesman denied that there is any program of defense cooperation between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The spokesman said Pakistan-Sri Lanka cooperation is limited to seats in defense courses, from which Sri Lanka benefits like other friendly nations. He added that Pakistan also has a modest defense production capability, and as such, Sri Lanka has participated in international offers.

Junejo Discusses Elections, Afghan Raids
BK271331 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has said that only registered parties would be allowed to take part in the next general elections in the country. He was talking to newsmen at the Multan airport before his departure for Rawalpindi after a brief visit to the city this afternoon.

Replying to a question, he said that the government is considering the question whether the local bodies' elections should be held on party basis and a decision in this regard would be taken within 2 months. He pointed out that local bodies' elections are normally not held on party basis and it is for the first time that the question is being examined by the present government.

Replying to a question, the prime minister assured that those involved in subversive activities would be given exemplary punishment.

About the violation of Pakistan's border by Kabul regime's aircraft, the prime minister said that our aircraft are patrolling the border and they have been directed to be more vigilant in the [words indistinct].

About the Geneva proximity talks on Afghanistan, he hoped there will be progress in the next round of talks.

Discusses Steps Against Afghan Raids
BK271542 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has said that the government has taken the necessary steps to prevent Kabul regime airplanes from violating the airspace along the western borders; patrolling by planes has also been increased there. He said this while talking to newsmen at the Multan airport before his departure for Rawalpindi after a brief visit to the city this afternoon.

The prime minister said that he has asked the forces to be more vigilant to check the air attacks and bombing by the enemy aircraft. He said that it is not possible for the planes to keep flying 24 hours a day. Kabul regime's planes attack suddenly at opportune moments and flee our airspace before any retaliatory step can be taken.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said that talks are under way with the United States to acquire the advance warning

system so as to prevent such incidents. However, the talks at the moment have not reached any final decision.

On the indirect Geneva talks on Afghanistan, Mohammad Khan Junejo hoped that there will be progress in the next round of talks. He said that the time frame for the Soviet troop pullout from Afghanistan is the basic issue for which the Soviet Union has set a time of 18 months. He expressed the hope that the Soviet Union will further reduce this timetable at the next round of talks. [passage omitted]

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Arrives on 5-Day Visit

BK250950 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The prime minister of Sri Lanka, Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, was given a warm welcome on his arrival in Islamabad this morning on a 5-day official visit to Pakistan. The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, received the distinguished guest. Others who received the Sri Lankan prime minister were the senate chairman, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan; the speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Hamid Nasir Chatha; federal ministers; the ministers of state; the air and naval chiefs, and the elected representatives.

Speaks at Banquet Hosted by Junejo

BK260640 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Pakistan and Sri Lanka have reaffirmed their resolve to continue bilateral cooperation for the benefit of their people and have expressed the hope that Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa's current visit will further strengthen the existing friendly ties between the two countries. Speaking at a banquet hosted by Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in honor of his Sri Lankan counterpart in Rawalpindi last night, the two leaders noted the beneficial and exemplary relations existing between the two countries since their establishment, relations that provide an excellent model among states. The two leaders noted the similarlity of views between the two countries on various regional and international issues. They also noted the deep understanding existing between the two countries over the past few years on the basis of principles of relationship among states.

Reviewing bilateral relations, Mohammad Khan Junejo expressed confidence that his discussions with the Sri Lankan prime minister will further promote mutual understanding and bilateral relations. He reiterated Pakistan's firm determination to promote peace through strict adherence to the internationally recognized principles of sovereign equality, respect for each other's national independence and territorial integrity, noninterference in the internal affairs of other nations, and nonuse of force or threat to use force. Pakistan has sincerely complied with these principles and totally renounced aggression or intervention, and domination or hegemonism.

Referring to the Afghanistan problem, the prime minister said this neighboring country has been under foreign military occupation for the past 7 years, and Pakistan has been striving for a settlement of this problem in accordance with relevant UN resolutions. It is highly encouraging that the Geneva negotiations have yielded some positive results. He expressed confidence that the Geneva process will ultimately prove successful.

Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo reiterated Pakistan's desire for establishment of peace in the region through honorable means and referred to several concrete steps Pakistan has taken to create a climate of trust and confidence among neighboring countries. Pakistan has always endeavored to establish tension-free, good relations with its close neighbors. He expressed satisfaction at the formation of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation which has provided a rare opportunity to promote peace, stability, and cooperation in the region.

Ranasinghe Premadasa in his speech expressed satisfaction with the friendly relations existing between the two countries and said that Pakistan and Sri Lanka share identical views on the Indian Ocean problems and on the world economy, peace, and development. The Sri Lankan prime minister appreciated Pakistan's support for South Asia's integrated environment program. He also commended the support Pakistan has extended in connection with the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless proposed by Sri Lanka at the United Nations. Referring to over 1 million Muslims living in Sri Lanka, he said they have played an important role in the national economy. He spoke highly of Islamic culture and the Islamic way of life.

The Sri Lankan prime minister called on Mohammad Khan Junejo yesterday evening and exchanged views with him on bilateral issues, including cooperation in trade and transportation. They also reviewed their respective development strategies with regard to less privileged sections of their people and exchanged views on the housing schemes of the two countries. Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo briefed the distinguished guest on his 5-point development program as well as his plan to provide houses to the homeless. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the current volume of bilateral trade and reviewed ways and means to further boost it.

Kashani Sermon Notes Hormuz Strait Policy

LD271234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] On the first Friday of the year 1336 [beginning 21 March] and on the eve of the feast anniversary of Prophet (Mohammad) Mab'as, Islam's exalted prophet — may God's benedictions and peace be upon Him and his scion — the Muslim people of Iran today attended Friday prayer gatherings.

Tehran's Muslims gathered at Tehran University and its surrounding thoroughfares and performed the Friday prayers, led by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Emami Kashani. In his Friday sermons he referred to the coming feast of the Holy Prophet Mohammad Mab'as and the characteristics of this great Islamic feast, and then described the nature of the Holy Prophet Mohammad's mission.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Emami Kashani then touched on the issue of the Islamic Republic of Iran placing its missiles along its maritime and coastal borders. He said: The (?loudspeakers) of arrogance, in creating a hue and cry, announced that by doing this, Iran intends to close the Strait of Hormuz. The closing of the Strait of Hormuz is a myth; Iran's move is a legitimate and natural one carried out to defend the maritime borders stretching along the coast. As we have already declared, while we are able to export our oil via the Strait of Hormuz, it will be open to everyone, and will only be closed when we are not able to use it for the purposes of exporting our oil.

Referring to an interview given a few days ago by ex-U.S. President Carter, who said that if Iran wins the war the Gulf littoral states will be threatened, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Kashani remarked: The world's peoples realize we are honest and do not lie. You [as heard] too understand this, but you lie. Our neighbors and the Gulf littoral states know that the Islamic Republic of Iran is more interested than anyone else in the maintainance of the Persian Gulf, and these loudspeakers of arrogance want to create tension and anxiety for the Gulf littoral states.

In conclusion, while describing Iran's present position regarding the imposed war's development, he said: If we are currently inside Iraqi territory, it is for defensive purposes. He then referred to celebrations in Baghdad, saying: The Iraqi regime is similar to someone on his deathbed celebrating because he has not yet died.

Tunisian Severance of Ties 'Illogical Move'

LD271155 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that, in connection with the Tunisian Foreign Ministry statement making allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran and against our country's embassy in Tunis, and announcing the severance of relations with Iran, a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced: The allegations made by the Tunisian Government are false and baseless. The Tunisian regime has so far failed to offer any evidence or proof to substantiate those allegations. It has merely stated certain things in general terms and demonstrated an irresponsible reaction.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman went on: A careful look at that country's false allegations shows that the Tunisian regime has broken off its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran because it is fearful of the growth of the Islamic movement in Tunisia — a fear that stems from the awareness of that country's Muslim people. Instead of properly understanding that movement and harmonizing itself with its nation's demands, the Tunisian regime has attributed that internal movement to foreign sources and accused the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tunisia.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added: At a time when all the world's knowledgeable statesmen and analysts confirm that, since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, a new movement has emerged among the world's Muslims for a return to Islamic values and when there is disillusion with and a rejection of anti-Islamic measures adopted by some leaders of Islamic states, the Tunisian Government's decision to break off relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran to halt the Tunisian Muslim nation's attitude on returning to Islam is an ineffective and irresponsible decision.

Of course, one should not overlook the pressures brought to bear in connection with that decision by some of the big powers whose illegitimate interests are threatened by the Tunisian people's Islamic movement.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman concluded: Did the Numayri regime's severance of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the closure of the Iranian Embassy in Khartoum halt the Sudanese people's Islamic movement? Has the absence of an Iranian diplomatic cadre in Egypt been able to halt the conscious and tumultuous movement of Egyptian Muslims?

Obviously, the Tunisian leaders, too, will be able to resolve their problems only by respecting the Islamic beliefs of their people and by siding with the Tunisian people. A decision such as the severance of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran is merely an illogical move stemming from the weakness of that country's government.

Demonstrations Held Protesting War's Continuation

TA261432 (Clandestine) Voice of the Kavyani Banner in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Some of our costrugglers have reported from Tehran that yesterday the frustrated citizens of the capital staged demonstrations in different parts of the city. They protested against the regime's policy with regard to prolonging the war and demanded its termination. Between 200 to 300 persons participated in each of these demonstrations.

In continuation of their reports, our costrugglers added that the wave of opposition to the war's prolongation is escalating daily in Tehran. By staging street rallies against the war's continuation, the capital's citizens are in fact expressing opposition to

the Islamic Republic regime and Khomeyni's Velayat-e Faqih rule, and are demanding the overthrow of the mullahs' regime.

According to observers, yesterday's demonstrations in Tehran are a prelude to intensive activities in the future.

Kharrazi Says Missiles To Protect 'Ourselves'

LD271400 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] London, March 27, IRNA — The Islamic Republic has stationed missiles near the Strait of Hormuz to defend itself and stop Iraqi warships recently delivered from Italy from entering the Persian Gulf, according to a senior Iranian official.

Dr Kamal Kharrazi, head of Iran's War Information Headquarters, said in an interview here Thursday that Iran is determined to continue its defensive war against Iraq.

"The missiles are just for the protection of ourselves. If we are not attacked or hit by others we don't have to use them," he said in an interview with Britain's Radio 4 station.

"Basically, we have installed those missiles to (?stop) the warships which (Iraq) has bought from Italy coming into the Persian Gulf." He did not say what the missiles' type was.

Dr Kharrazi who is also a member of the Supreme Defence Council said the war with Iraq will continue "as long as the Iranian people are motivated to continue their defence."

"We do not consider this war as a war against others. We consider this as a defence because we have been attacked," added Dr Kharrazi.

On hostages in Lebanon, Kharrazi said Iran's help in bringing about the release of Terry Waite, the archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy who went missing in Lebanon two months ago, would depend on the archbishop's efforts to release four Iranian hostages held by Lebanese Phalange Christians. If the archbishop is willing to do something about the Iranian hostages "we will certainly be interested to use our influence among Muslims in Lebanon to probably free hostages in Lebanon," he said.

He said Iran did not know where Terry Waite was being held but reiterated that Lebanese Muslims are "listening to us, are devoted to Islam and to the benefit of the Islamic Republic and its people and would certainly do something."

The head of the War Information Headquarters said Britain's break in relations with Syria last October would probably not have an effect on Waite's release because they too are interested in solving the hostages issue.

Majlis Speaker Says Iraqi War Machine 'Crippled'

LD261920 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 26, IRNA — The fatal blows dealt by Iran's Muslim combatants last year have crippled the Iraqi war machine, said Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, here Thursday. "This year is the year of reaping the harvests of last year's victories," he added.

The fate of the Iraqi imposed war has already been determined by the stunning victories over the Baghdad regime during the last Iranian year (ended March 20), elaborated Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his address to a group of visiting Muslim combatants.

Imam Khomeyni's representative at the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) noted that the very fact the Iraqi regime heaved a sigh of relief on March 21 (Iran's New Year day), suggests "the Ba'thist clique expects to be toppled soon, and that is why it celebrated."

It is surprising, he remarked, that the leader of a country invites the people to celebrate because they (the Ba'thists) are still alive. "This indicates the enemy's extraordinary fear," he added.

The enemy celebrates the loss of 40 to 50 helicopters, several warplanes, hundreds of tanks and vehicles, thousands of troops, some key heights, as well as a number of sensitive points of its soil, mocked Rafsanjani.

"These celebrations resemble the medals Saddam Husayn pins on his defeated commanders when troops are vanquished and captured," said the speaker, adding that these commanders are decorated with medals solely because they survived the operations launched by Iranian Muslim combatants.

U.S. Exploiting Missile Issue To Save Position

NC270530 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The oppressive media is continuing to focus its attention on the missiles deployed on the Islamic Republic's coasts. This issue remains a matter of interest to those political analysts and observers who are attempting to highlight the comments made in the United States with regard to the presence of these missiles and their threat to the security of U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf.

This missile issue brings to mind the Cuban missile crisis fabricated by the United States some 20 years ago. That particular crisis ended with Soviet experts dismantling the missiles in question in accordance with U.S. wishes. At that time, divisions were running rampant among White House officials, threatening to bring about the collapse of the U.S. political machine with respect to the Soviet Union, the other power in the international conflict. The United States tried to exploit the missile issue to deceive the U.S. public into believing that there was a danger threatening the country, a danger represented by the Soviet missiles deployed on Cuban territory. The objective was to cover up existing differences and force U.S. politicians to unite their stands on the pretext of imminent danger.

This is the clever policy pursued by the United States whenever it senses the impending collapse of the administration's domestic position. It quickly resorts to the use of sirens to make the American citizen feel the danger. The United States has dealt with the missiles deployed by the Islamic Republic on its coasts in the same way that it dealt with the Cuban missile issue. It has tried to turn this matter into a real crisis by claiming that Iran bought a number of missiles from the Soviet Union in return for allowing Moscow to have monitoring stations on the Gulf shores.

The United States is trying to link this issue to its traditional, classical struggle with the Soviet Union. America made a very similar attempt during the Cuban missile crisis. At that time it tried to create a connection between the struggle over missiles and the conflict betwen the East and West blocs to give the issue a primary strategic dimension and not a secondary one.

The United States is seeking to exploit the current missile issue in an effort to deal with its declining domestic situation following the exposure of its failure to restore relations with the Islamic Republic. This exposure has had grave consequences for U.S. policy and has led to a big retreat in the administration's position. This scandal has also given rise to divisions, references to which are currently taking up a great deal of space in daily reports and analyses. The U.S. Administration has tried to exploit the missile issue in an effort to prevent the U.S. position from collapsing entirely.

When one compares these two crises, however, there are a few facts that must be mentioned. The first such fact is that the missiles deployed by the Islamic Republic are thousands of kilometers away from the U.S. coast while the Cuban missiles were no more than 400 kilometers away. The second fact is that the Cuban missiles were installed by Soviet experts and deployed on the basis of a Soviet decision for Soviet purposes. The missiles in the Islamic Republic were installed by Islamic hands in accordance with a decision made by the Islamic Republic with clear purposes in mind. These missiles have no connection with any big power either in their (?installation) or their purpose.

Consequently, the fate of these missiles will not be the same as that suffered by the Cuban missiles that were dismantled after being installed. The Cuban missiles were removed as a result of political calculations related to the strategic balance between the two major camps.

Communique Notes 4 Ships Stopped in Hormuz Strait

LD261649 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 26, IRNA — Iranian Navy, maintaining control over the Strait of Hormuz, intercepted four foreign commercial ships Wednesday but allowed them to continue voyage since no suspicious case was observed, said a military communique released here Thursday.

The Joint Staff Communique Number 2,787 added that fire exchanges continued between the two sides in most of the battle-fronts during Wednesday and Thursday, being more intense in the Hajj 'Umran region, northwestern front, Qasr-e Shirin, western front, and Talaiyeh, in the southern sector. In these operations, the Iranian Muslim forces maintained the upper hand inflicting considerable casualties and losses upon the Iraqi troops, as well as checking all their activities and movements.

Reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters over the Panjwin operational region, Western fronts, were immediately checked by the air defence units of the Iranian forces during the said period.

Also, in the western fronts, movements of enemy motorized columns were halted by the Iranian defenders who destroyed two anti-aircraft gun positions and a heavy engineering vehicle, killing some Iraqi troops.

Iraqi armoured and artillery units in the southern fronts were subjected to the Iranian artillery fire, which silenced the enemy fire inflicting more casualties and damage upon the latter.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces, returning the enemy fire, destroyed 10 Iraqi bunkers, three anti-aircraft and anti-tank guns, as well as killing or wounding a number of Iraqi troops Wednesday, concluded the communique.

No 2,788 Further Updates Operations

LD271650 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 27, IRNA — Iran's naval gunboats intercepted six commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz Thursday, but allowed them to continue voyage, since no suspicious cargo turned up on board, said the Joint Staff communique here Friday.

Communique No 2,788 of the Joint Staff forces [as received] also said that in the past 24 hours heavy exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the war fronts with the Muslim forces of Iran, maintaining superiority.

In the Marivan operational region, western fronts, the Muslim forces destroyed several enemy group bunkers killing or injuring a number of Iraqi forces, said the communique. While elsewhere in the same fronts an enemy munition dump was set ablaze and several Iraqi troops were killed, it added.

In the northwestern operational fronts Thursday some 30 patrol groups were dispatched to sensitive areas of the region inflicting heavy losses and damage on the enemy. Several mortar launchers, RPG 7 and other equipment were also seized intact. In these operations more than 60 Iraqis were either killed or wounded including several officers and NCO's. Meanwhile, a bulldozer and a vehicle were also taken intact, added the communique.

Continued the communique, in the southern fronts the Iranian forces while defending the area kept Ba'thist positions under heavy fire, checking all enemy movements and killing or wounding a number of their troops.

As a result of the relentless fire of the Muslim forces of Iran movement of enemy vehicles in Chuman Mustafa, Kharratha, Mehran, and Hawr al-Huwayzah regions, in different parts of the fronts were disrupted and enemy helicopters were prevented from carrying out reconnaissance flights over the areas, concluded the communique.